

information. Initially, some source of information such as a television signal 32 is supplied from any number of sources, such as over-the-air transmission, cable or other recorded source. Channel selection 34 controls the tuner 36 to select the desired information from television signal 32. The output of tuner 36 is an audio/video signal 38 corresponding to the channel selected. A data slicer 40 is coupled to the output of the tuner 36. The data slicer 40 functions to monitor the XDS signal as carried in the audio/video signal 38. The data slicer 40 may either strip the XDS signal from the audio/video signal 38 or simply duplicate the XDS signal. With the "V-chip" system, the XDS data obtained by the data slicer 40 is program rating information. The program rating information is supplied from the data slicer 40 to the comparator 42. A list 44 of prohibited ratings is stored or provided. Typically, the system would identify all prohibited ratings by level, such as R and X, though a system could utilize logic to prohibit any rating at a given level or above (the convention above meaning more mature or more likely to be prohibited). In the event of coincidence between the output of the data slicer 40 comprising the rating data of the program and the list of prohibited ratings 44, the comparator 42 provides a blocking signal 46 to signal blocking mechanism 48. The signal blocking mechanism 48 functions as a switch, blocking or otherwise scrambling audio/video signal 38, such that the show having the prohibited rating is not displayed.

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